Read pages 20 and 21 of *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander, then use whatever resources you have to answer the questions below. To understand where power lies today, you must understand where it resided yesterday. You might even think of power as a fixed amount; someone always has some of it somewhere. Some have more than others.

1. What is the Emancipation Proclamation?
2. On what date was it issued?
3. Who issued the Proclamation?
4. Why did Lincoln issue the Emancipation Proclamation when he did?
5. What major battle preceded the Proclamation? Who cares?
6. Define the word “purport.” [second sentence on page 20]
7. Approximately how many slaves were actually freed by the Emancipation Proclamation?
8. When did the institution of legalized slavery end in the United States of America? Amendment?
9. How many slaves are there in the United States today?
10. What is a slave?
11. Do all slaves have “paper work” that designate them as slaves?
12. What happened during Reconstruction?

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1. Did Reconstruction just “end”? What happened?
2. What were slave codes?
3. What were Jim Crow laws?
4. What were convict leasing camps?
5. Could anyone have predicted the rise of Jim Crow laws?
6. Look at the Martin Luther King quotation in the classroom (two copies: southeast corner and northwest corner). Would Dr. King have predicted the rise of Jim Crow laws?
7. What do the Jim Crow laws tell us about how power works over time?

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1. What is a caste?
2. What lessons have we learned from Obama and Winfrey?

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1. What is meant by “preservation through transformation” on page 21? Why is this sinister? Write generally about this, not just the African-American struggle.
2. At the bottom of page 21, Alexander talks about “confusion.” How do people who want power exploit confusion? Can you give an example of this for *any* time in history?
3. At the top of page 22, what example does Alexander use to show how some use confusion to consolidate power?
4. “Moreover, as the systems of control have evolved, they have become perfected, arguably more resilient to challenge, and thus capable of enduring for generations to come.” The people with power have “systems” to control you. What does Professor Alexander mean here? How do the systems “evolve”? When will the systems end?

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